



His Excellency Faisal Al Bannai **CEO and Managing Director, EDGE**



His Excellency Faisal Al Bannai is CEO and Managing Director of EDGE, an advanced technology group for defence and beyond. EDGE seeks to disrupt and transform a wide variety of industries through advanced technologies, and comprises of five strategic business clusters: Platforms & Systems, Missiles & Weapons, Cyber Defence, Electronic Warfare & Intelligence, and Mission Support.

Al Bannai holds a wealth of experience in developing and implementing end-to-end technology solutions that leverage emerging innovations to navigate through complex contemporary security threats.

He also currently holds the position of Secretary General of the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC), an independent legal entity established to accelerate a culture of innovation. Al Bannai is responsible for strengthening Abu Dhabi's position as world-leading, dynamic hub for research and development. Alongside these positions, Al Bannai is also a Member of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa University of Science and Technology, a world-class, research-intensive institution located in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Earlier, he founded DarkMatter Group, a global cyber security service provider headquartered in Abu Dhabi. He led the company's long-term growth strategy while overseeing its day-to-day operations, including ground-breaking research and development initiatives. Under his leadership, DarkMatter expanded into a US\$400 million business with over 650 employees and branches in three countries.

Prior to establishing DarkMatter, Al Bannai founded Axiom Telecom, the largest distributor of mobile devices in the Middle East, with an annual turnover of over US\$2.5 billion.

Throughout his career, he has received several accolades, most notably the 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. He was also recognised as the Technology Business Leader of the Year at the Gulf Business Awards 2017. In 2018, he joined the elite Gulf Business Arab Power List and Arabian Business' 100 Inspiring Leaders in the Middle East ranking.

Al Bannai holds a bachelor's degree in Finance from Boston University in the US and a master's degree in Shipping Trade and Finance from City University in the UK.